CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cartridge for charging a closed, pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system with a fluid, comprising:

a) a closed, non-pressurized cylindrical cartridge,

wherein the cartridge has two ends, a first open end and a second open end,

wherein the first open end comprises an inner nozzle which connects to the system being charged and an outer nozzle;

b) a predetermined amount of the fluid; and

c) a piston sealably disposed with the second open end of the cartridge,

wherein the cartridge is adapted to connect sealably and releasably to the pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system to form a closed binary system.

2. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the fluid comprises a lubricant for the air conditioning or refrigeration system.

3. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the fluid comprises a fluid dye for the air conditioning or refrigeration system.

4. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the fluid comprises a lubricant and a fluid dye for the air conditioning or refrigeration system.

5. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the fluid is maintained in the cartridge at about ambient pressure.

6. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the cartridge is fabricated out of transparent material and includes a plurality of gradient markings.

7. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the inner nozzle is surrounded by an internal thread.

8. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the outer nozzle is surrounded by an external thread.

9. The cartridge of claim 8, wherein the outer nozzle comprises a threaded cap for engagement with the external thread.

10. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the inner nozzle is surrounded by an internal thread and wherein the outer nozzle is surrounded by an external thread.

11. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the piston further comprises an O-ring.

12. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the piston further comprises a recessed double O-ring.